

MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

“What Your Tax Dollars Buy in Murray”

Part One

The Murray City Municipal Council is sponsoring a series of articles relating to how your tax dollars are utilized in Murray City. The objective of these articles is to educate and inform the citizens about municipal government and taxation.

There are many misconceptions about which tax dollars fund city government, and further, what those taxes purchase. As elected officials, we believe that people are most satisfied when they feel knowledgeable about an issue. Our goal is to enhance residents’ understanding of which of their taxes buy city services, and what services they can expect to receive when they pay those taxes.

During the upcoming year, this series of articles in the *Murray Journal* will give you accurate information about:

- which taxes the City relies upon for revenue
- what percentages of your tax dollars fund Murray City as opposed to other taxing entities
- what services you can expect to receive from Murray City
- which revenues make up the City’s general fund budget
- what Utah citizens believe about taxes
- how Utah citizens feel about representation at all levels of government



This information will be based on information provided by the Utah League of Cities and Towns, Dan Jones polls (2001, 2003, 2005), and Murray City financial records from the City Finance Director.

A recent Dan Jones poll asked Utah State residents a series of questions about taxes and government. As elected officials, we were somewhat surprised at the number of residents who do not know how their tax dollars are distributed. As elected officials we must do a better job educating the public to issues affecting our City. While the results have shown that residents are more informed than they were in previous years, there is still much room for improvement.

An example of the information gathered from the polls, Dan Jones asked residents which levels of government receive revenue from income taxes. While the majority was correct in choosing federal and state government, 24% believe that municipal government also receives a portion of income tax revenues. **FACT:** City Government **does not** receive revenue from income taxes.

With that in mind, can you name the taxes that support Murray City municipal government and services? There are three major sources of municipal funding, can you name them? Stay tuned for article #2, in which we will discuss municipal funding sources. The article will appear in next month’s issue of the *Murray Journal*.

